

Message Text

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COMMERCE FOR FIELD OIM/BIC, AND DAUMAN, BIEPR/OITP/IND

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: EGEN, FR
SUBJECT: FRENCH LABELLING LAW

REF: A. STATE 313654, B. PARIS 37693, C. STATE 281586,
D. PARIS 34697

1. EMBOFFS MET JANUARY 11 WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF HIGH
COMMITTEE FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE TO PASS ON COMMENTS AND
REQUESTS REGARDING LABELLING LAW (REFTEL A). BELOW ARE
RESPONSE RECEIVED:

A. VARIAN COMPANY SHOULD ENCOUNTER NO DIFFICULTY SINCE
PRODUCTS ARE NOT CONSUMER ITEMS NOR SOLD IN LARGE QUANTI-
TIES.

B. BERTRAM YACHT. NO PROBLEM RE MANUAL SINCE, EVEN
THOUGH IS CONSUMER GOOD, ONLY FEW ITEMS SOLD. HOWEVER,
IF YACHTS ARE OFFERED FOR SALE TO GENERAL PUBLIC,
E. G. IN BOAT SHOW, PUBLICITY BROCHURE WOULD HAVE TO BE
IN FRENCH. THEREFOR, IT WOULD BE PRUDENT FOR DIS-
TRIBUTOR TO HAVE SIMPLE FRENCH BROCHURES FOR CUSTOMERS,
WITH DETAILED ENGLISH MANUAL FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION.

C. PLYWOOD. IF WORDS REPEAT WORDS IN IDENTIFICATION
SYSTEM ARE INTERNATIONALLY ACCEPTED AND RECOGNIZED, NO
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PROBLEM IS ENVISAGED. REGARDING SYMBOLS, THERE IS
ALSO NO PROBLEM, BUT EXPLANATION OF MEANING OF SYMBOLS
MUST BE IN FRENCH.

D. MURRAY OHIO MANUFACTURING. (SEE PARA 3 BELOW)

E. MINNESOTA WORLD TRADE ASSOCIATION. COMMITTEE
REPRESENTATIVES DID NOT KNOW ANSWER TO QUESTION RE
RESPONSIBILITY AND WILL PROVIDE RESPONSE AFTER CON-

SULTING WITH LEGAL EXPERTS.

2. TIMETABLE FOR IMPLEMENTATION. DRAFT REGULATIONS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LABELLING LAW NOW EXPECTED TO BE REVIEWED AND APPROVED BY INTER MINISTERIAL GROUP ON OR ABOUT JANUARY 25. WHEN APPROVED REGULATIONS ARE IN HANDS OF SERVICE FOR REPRESSION OF FRAUD AND PREFETS, LAW WILL BE FORMALLY ENFORCED. HOWEVER, SINCE LAW IS ALREADY IN PRINCIPLE OPERATIVE SINCE JANUARY 5, CONSUMER GROUPS - WHICH ARE EXPECTED TO SERVE AS "RIGHT ARM" OF FRAUD INSPECTORS AND CAN BRING ALLEGED VIOLATIONS DIRECTLY TO TRIBUNALS - MAY JUMP OFFICIAL GUN. TO DATE WE HAVE RECEIVED NO INDICATION THAT SUCH IS CASE.

3. GRACE PERIOD. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES SAID NO FOUR MONTH PERIOD WAS POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, PROPOSED REGULATIONS CONTAINED FOLLOWING GUIDELINES RELATIVE TO GOOD IN STOCK AND ON ORDER:

A. IF GOODS WERE ORDERED BEFORE JANUARY 5, 1977, ARE ALREADY IN STOCK OR ON DISPLAY, INSPECTORS WILL BE "TOLERANT" REGARDING COMPLIANCE, EXCEPT WHERE POTENTIAL CONSUMER HAZARD EXISTS, E.G. LAWNMOWERS, IN WHICH CASE TRANSLATION OF WARNING WILL BE REQUIRED AS A MINIMUM.

B. IF GOODS WERE ORDERED AFTER JANUARY 5, LABELLING MUST CONFORM TO LAW.

4. WHILE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES WERE UNABLE TO PROVIDE US WITH COPY OF DRAFT REGULATIONS, THEY DID PROMISE TO SEND US COPY OF APPROVED REGULATIONS AFTER INTER-MINISTERIAL GROUP REVIEW AND BEFORE TRANSMISSION TO ENFORCEMENT BODIES. IF WE NOTE ANY GLARING VARIANCES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FROM WHAT WE HAVE BEEN TOLD WILL BE CONTENT AND THRUST OF REGULATIONS, WE WILL SO NOTIFY COMMITTEE AND WASHINGTON. DIPNOTE (PARA 2 REFTTEL A) WILL BE SUBMITTED TO GOF JANUARY 17.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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